

CLAIMS

1. A reconnaissance system, comprising:

- A projectile, having an opening through which images of a target area can be acquired, said projectile being suitable to be launched from a portable launcher towards said target area, comprising image acquiring means for acquiring images of said target area through said opening and for transmitting said images to a remote station;

- Means for stabilizing said projectile and/or said image acquiring means while flying in a nearly-parabolic trajectory above said target area; and

- A remote station, for receiving and displaying said transmitted images, comprising a monitor for displaying said transmitted images.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein said stabilizing means are vanes mounted on the rear side of said projectile.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein said stabilizing means are gyroscopic means that determines the orientation of said image acquiring means with respect to the projectile and the target area.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein the image acquiring means is chosen from among optical camera, infrared camera, CCD and CMOS.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein the projectile comprises an antenna printed on its outer surface, thereby maintaining an aerodynamic outline of said projectile.
6. A system according to claim 1, wherein the projectile is pushed by a cartridge containing a charge in quantity that corresponds to the ballistic properties of said projectile and the distance from the launching point to the target.
7. A system according to claim 1, wherein the portable launcher is coupled to a personal weapon.
8. A system according to claim 1, wherein the portable launcher is independent of a personal weapon.
9. A system according to claim 1, wherein the remote station is a portable computing device.
10. A system according to claim 9, wherein the computing device is selected from laptop computers, PDAs and Pocket PCs.

11. A system according to claim 1, wherein the image acquiring means comprise two separate and distanced lenses whereby to generate three-dimensional images.

12. A system according to claim 1, wherein the means for stabilizing the projectile comprise retractable fins.

13. A system according to claim 1, wherein the transmitter transmits the images to one or more remote stations.

14. A system according to claim 13, wherein the images are transmitted together with a selection code that enables their reception only by predetermined stations.

15. A system according to any one of claims 1 to 14, comprising in addition to the image acquiring means – or instead of such image acquiring means – one or more sensor(s) suitable to detect the presence or the absence of a sensible condition, and means for generating a signal representative of the sensed conditions and for transmitting a signal corresponding to them to a user's receiver.

16. A system according to claim 15, wherein the sensed condition is the presence or absence of a chemical agent.

17.A system according to claim 15, wherein the sensed condition is the presence or absence of a biological agent.

18.A rifle-launched reconnaissance system, substantially as described and illustrated.